



## EPA ANNOUNCES COMMENCEMENT OF GROUNDWATER FIELD WORK AT THE FRIED INDUSTRIES SUPERFUND SITE

Community Update

August 2009

**EPA will begin the field work and other remedial activities necessary to treat the groundwater contaminants at the Fried Industries Superfund site in East Brunswick, NJ**

**EPA expects the work to begin mid-August 2009 and take approximately six months.**

### **QUESTIONS? Please Contact**

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**Visit EPA's Web site at:**

[www.epa.gov/region02/superfund](http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has prepared this fact sheet to inform the community, local officials and other interested parties about the upcoming field work to be performed at the Fried Industries Superfund site (site) in East Brunswick, NJ. This field work and other remedial activities are necessary to treat the groundwater contaminants and meet applicable federal and state requirements.

In June 2009, EPA approved the Final Remedial Design Work Plan for the Fried Industries site. The field work component of the design is expected to begin mid-August 2009 and take approximately six months. The field work will allow EPA to complete the characterization of the nature and extent of contaminants and gather design data to treat the bedrock groundwater contaminants and will include the following tasks:

- \* Installation of a bedrock pump test well;
- \* Assessment of the matrix diffusion potential of the bedrock (shows the potential of the bedrock to slowly release contaminants over time;
- \* Performance of an aquifer pumping test;
- \* Implementation of a topographic site survey;
- \* Installation of four new off-site bedrock groundwater monitoring wells for contaminant delineation;
- \* Groundwater sampling from 23 existing bedrock wells, 21 existing overburden monitoring wells and the four new off-site wells; and
- \* Installation of geotechnical borings.

EPA has certain remedial action objectives for the affected groundwater. These objectives include the following :

- \* Restore contaminated groundwater to applicable State standards;
- \* Prevent public exposure to contaminated groundwater that presents a risk to human health and the environment;
- \* Minimize migration of contaminated groundwater; and
- \* Protect uncontaminated groundwater.

## **FRIED INDUSTRIES SITE BACKGROUND**

EPA added the Fried Industries site in Middlesex County, NJ to the Superfund National Priorities List on June 1, 1986. The Fried Industries Superfund site consists of an approximately 26-acre property located in a mixed residential and open space area of East Brunswick. The site contains a pond, a marsh area and several separate wetland areas. The site previously contained a building complex which was used for the manufacture of certain chemicals.

Conditions at the site resulted in contamination of the soil and groundwater. In 1983, EPA found that hazardous wastes were improperly stored on site and site soil was contaminated with heavy metals, arsenic and volatile organic compounds, which are potentially harmful contaminants that can easily evaporate in the air.

As an immediate action, in 1985, EPA pumped approximately 7,000 gallons of process and septic wastes from underground tanks. The Township of East Brunswick provided hookups to the public water supply for homes still using wells in the affected area. In 1989, EPA installed a security fence around the building complex and began to remove drums and laboratory containers from the site.

To clean up the entire site, EPA decided to excavate, treat and dispose of arsenic-contaminated surface soil, extract and treat groundwater, and demolish on-site buildings.

In 1997, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers directed the demolition and removal of all on-site above-ground structures, including buildings, tanks, railroad cars and loading ramps. This action was completed in January 1998. The building complex was demolished in 1999. Also in 1999, approximately 15,450 tons of contaminated soil was removed from the site along with over 600 55-gallon drums and numerous pails, bottles and tanks. Additionally, 600,000 gallons of groundwater was pumped out of the ground and disposed of off-site. Due to extensive removal of contamination, for both soil and groundwater, a re-evaluation of the groundwater was necessary, and a review of the design was required.

The Final Remedial Design Work Plan for the groundwater was approved in June 2009 and EPA will begin the remedial activities shortly to treat the groundwater contaminants at the site.

US EPA Region 2 has designated an Ombudsman as a point-of-contact for community concerns and questions about the federal Superfund program in New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. To support this effort, the Agency has established a 24-hour, toll-free number that the public can call to request information, express their concerns or register complaints about Superfund. The ombudsman for EPA's Region 2 office is:

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